

## INSIDE TODAY

## WORLD NEWS

### Former rebel leader is Uruguay's president-elect

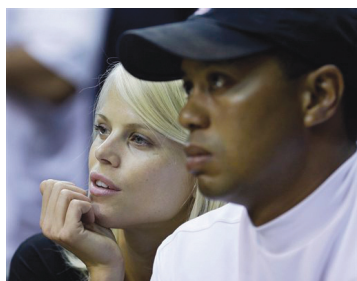


MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — A plain-talking former leader of leftist guerrillas who once sought power through kidnappings and bombings is now the president-elect of Uruguay.

See Page B/8

## SPORTS NEWS

### For third time, Woods cancels meeting with police



WINDERMERE, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods finally gave his side of the story Sunday — on his Web site, not to police — and took the blame for an “embarrassing” car crash that gave him cuts, bruises and public scrutiny like never before.

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## Ninety-Two Players Had Fun

# Father & son duo win 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plaza Golf tournament

ORANJESTAD -- William van Ramshorst and his son Liam won the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Café the Plaza's annual golf tournament, at Tierra del Sol. Not only did they defeat 90 competitors, no, they beat a few other father-son combinations in the process. With a strong wind trying to fool the players and a fierce sun brightening up the afternoon, Saturday, November 28 was a perfect day to play 18-holes of golf. The 46 participating teams had a blast.

Tierra del Sol's golf pros and organizers of the tournament announced the winners at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace, where an Indonesian bami goring buffet and lots to drink miraculously revived the tired players. Head Pro Oliver Riding and his assistant Adam Williamson



thanked their crew as well as Café the Plaza for their assistance, just before announcing the winners. The prize for the Longest Drive went to JR Quant; Closest to the Pin was Axl

Ismail. Anthony Beaujon and Capi Hese were in third (60.4 Net Score), Steve Bowen and Andy Hunt were in second with 59.4 and just one tenth made a lot of difference: William and Liam van

Ramshorst won with 59.3. Other father-and-son teams included Frans and Matthew Brinkman (they came in fifth), and Mike and Maurice de L'Isle (12).

Continued on page 4

## At the Westin Gallery “Guadirikiri” by artist Stan Kuiperi opens



PALM BEACH - Acknowledged as one of Aruba's finest artists, Stan Kuiperi presented his latest collection, inspired by the ancient cave paintings of Aruba's prehistoric inhabitants at the Westin Gallery in Palm Beach on Friday, November

27. Officially opening the two-month exposition was Aruba's Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Winklaar with

Minister of Public Health and Sport, Richard Visser, participating. Stan Kuiperi was raised in Aruba, but began his education in art history, art appreciation, art design, and painting in Puerto Rico and Miami at 18.

Continued on page 9



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*Have Dinner at The Sizzling Steakhouse And Enter To Win 100,000 Marriott Rewards Points*

# Ruth's Chris Steak House Launches 100,000 Visitor Celebrations with Marriott Rewards Campaign



**PALM BEACH** - On Friday November 27th the official launch of a unique 100,000 Marriott Rewards points campaign took place at a filled Ruth's Chris Steak House. The famed restaurant with



roots in New Orleans, opened in Aruba in February of 2008 at the Marriott Resort and welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors since its opening date. To celebrate this milestone with loyal customers and say thank you for all the support received, the sizzling steakhouse launched a promotion on Friday night. From now until December 18th all visitors of the restaurant have a chance to win 100,000 Marriott Rewards points which translates to a free stay of up to 7 nights at any Marriott property around the world. The festive drawing of the winner will take place on December 19th. Coupons are provided in the restaurant for every \$50 spent. "We are extremely proud and grateful at the same time that we've been able to accommodate almost 100,000 visitors till this day", says General Manager Eduard Renaud. Off course Ruth's Chris is a recognizable name and a strong brand in the United States, however here in Aruba the steakhouse had to prove itself. Luckily we succeeded and I must say the success of our steakhouse has even exceeded my expectations. We've been trained



in the United States and brought the quality of service and food to Aruba. It is very rewarding that people have found their way to Ruth's Chris and keep coming back for exactly that unique quality we are famous for". Spotted during the festive kick-off of the 100,000 Marriott Rewards Points campaign on Friday night were loyal guests Giani Cuilla and his family and friends. Also present was the lovely honeymoon couple from New York, Richard and Marisa

Sperber, enjoying a romantic night out at Ruth's Chris as part of their stay at Marriott's exclusive Tradewinds Club. Local PR celebrity Rona Coster also gave her luck a try by entering a few Rewards coupons before leaving the restaurant after a sumptuous dinner. "We warmly invite everybody to come and join us during the upcoming weeks for dinner, as this might be your chance to win those 100,000 Marriott Rewards Points and enjoy a perfect night out at the same time" elaborates Restaurant Manager Christie Roelofsen. "Everybody is welcome and for groups of ten people or more we even offer a 10% discount on the entire check and donate every second bottle of wine order, for free. We do recommend early reservations as the steakhouse can get busy during the month of December." The group promotion ends December 15th; the Marriott Rewards Points promotion ends December 18th. Throughout the month of December some additional celebrations will take place to honor loyal visitors, as well as the festive honoring of the actual 100,000 guest who will have dinner at the steakhouse this month. You can also become friends with Aruba's Ruth's Chris Steak House on Facebook.

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On December 5th

## Sinterklaas to visit children at Morgan's Island



the year. It is known that on December 5th is Sinterklaas' birthday so Morgan's Island Aruba only waterpark is having a big birthday celebration.

Gifts will be shared for all kids between 1 and 4 pm. Entrance alone is a gift on it's on as Morgan's Island is cutting all entrance fees.



PALM BEACH - As a tradition in The Netherlands and the Antilles, every December the holy man that called Sinterklaas will arrive. This white-bearded man dressed in red travels around the world on his white horse with his helpers "zwaartepiet" sharing gifts to all the boys and girls that were good through out



### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

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- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
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\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

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## Ninety-Two Players Had Fun Father & son duo win 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plaza Golf tournament



ORANJESTAD -- William van Ramshorst and his son Liam won the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Café the Plaza's annual golf tournament, at Tierra del Sol. Not only did they defeat 90 competitors, no, they beat a few other father-son combinations in the



ARUBA'S SIZZLING STEAKHOUSE WANTS TO CELEBRATE  
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process. With a strong wind trying to fool the players and a fierce sun brightening up the afternoon, Saturday, November 28 was a perfect day to play 18-holes of golf. The 46 participating teams had a blast. Tierra del Sol's golf pros and organizers of the tournament announced the winners at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace, where an Indonesian bami goring buffet and lots to drink miraculously revived the tired players. Head Pro Oliver Riding and his assistant Adam Williamson thanked their crew as well as Café the Plaza for their assistance, just before announcing the winners. The prize for the Longest Drive went to JR Quant; Closest to the Pin was Axl Ismail. Anthony Beaujon and Capi Hese were in third (60.4 Net Score), Steve Bowen and Andy Hunt were in second with 59.4 and just one tenth made a lot of difference: William and Liam van Ramshorst won with 59.3. Other father-and-son teams included Frans and Matthew Brinkman (they came in fifth), and Mike and Maurice de L'Isle (12).



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## Starbucks Coffee at the Renaissance Marketplace



ORANJESTAD – Minister Mike de Meza, Store Manager Vivian Tromp, and Director Business Development Starbucks Coffee International Mike Schieffer, headquartered in Miami, were honored to jointly open of the new store at the Renaissance Marketplace, mid Island Extravaganza event on Saturday.

Schieffer praised the high level of cooperation Starbucks Coffee International found in Aruba and reported that the partnership with Renaissance Aruba Resorts will serve as the new business model for Starbucks Coffee International in Latin and South America, where the company seeks to partner with top business concerns for the joint development of branded new outlets.

Schieffer shares that in peak years, he got to open up to 600 new Starbucks stores all over the world, and in view of the global economic downturn Starbucks realigned its performance and adjusted its products and is still as successful as ever opening in excess of 250 stores this year.

In preparation for opening an intense Barista training took place at the Renaissance resorts. Manager Vivian Tromp and her hand-picked crew covered a variety of subjects as presented

in the Starbucks Passport, from first impression to an overview of the Starbucks Experience. Starbucks coffee corporate training program left nothing to chance, and the new Baristas studied about customer care in relation to coffee, as outlined in the 100 level training manual for licensed stores.

Starbucks coffee will feature 14 seats inside and 32 outside on the terrace, and will remain open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a full assortment of signature coffees, pastries, cookies, light sandwiches and tasty bites, beside home coffee making equipment and accessories.





What about an early Belgian dinner?

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Appetizer - Entrée - Dessert

5-7 pm

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## PwC's seminar turns the focus on Managing Tomorrow's People



ORANJESTAD — A cross-section of local business executives attended the recent PriceWaterhouseCoopers seminar at the Renaissance Conference Center turning the focus on Managing Tomorrow's People. With this event PriceWaterhouseCoopers delivered its corporate

Thought Leadership regarding worldwide trends in Human Resources Management and their impact on the HR-function within local organizations on Aruba. The seminar offered interaction and sharing of experience and knowledge, under the guidance of keynote speaker, drs. Marina D.J.



Kooijmans, on staff with PwC's branch in Curacao. Kooijmans is the Manager of the Advisory Services of PriceWaterhouseCoopers Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, in possession of significant experience in Human Resources Management around the globe. Kooijmans worked with clients in areas including the energy industry,

Telecommunications, education, government, hospitality and the financial sector, and informed and enlighten a crowd of top professionals here.

Among local companies whose representatives attended the complimentary learning opportunity the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, the Holiday Inn, Amsterdam Manor, Fatum Insurance, Aruba Bank, Gandelman Holding, Meta Corp, the Aruba Police Corp, the Aruba Correction Institute, Garage Centraal, the Aruba Airport Authority and many more.

The seminar was hosted by PwC Advisory Services, Ruben Goedhoop and his



team. PricewaterhouseCoopers Aruba is a member of PricewaterhouseCoopers International; it is well established in the Aruban community and serves

clients that are active in different industries, such as transportation, hospitality, leisure and gaming, telecommunications, utilities, wholesale and retail businesses.

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# The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the

stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing, are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing. The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy



USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. [www.manchebo.com steakhouse](http://www.manchebo.com steakhouse) □

# Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace, raising the restaurant to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh margaritas, leaves nothing out, fruit or ice cream smoothies, including Yellow Birds, Sex daiquiris, coladas and on the Beach and Mudslides,



making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulou Eagle Beach, with

unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □

# Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort &

Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. Chef George accepted the Shoco Award, the national award of excellence, and Aruba's top professional decoration, in the tourism industry. □



# Three-hundred & eighty years of service celebrated at La Cabana



EAGLE BEACH – Quoting Abraham Lincoln, “And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years,” General Manager Joe Najjar opened the festive Anniversary Celebration at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club.

In total five individuals were presented with a certificate and a jewelry box, commemorating their 5th anniversary at the resort. Seven individuals were acknowledged for their 10th anniversary with a handsome ceramic plaque and an incredible number of employees, nineteen, were publicly appreciated on the eve of their 15th anniversary with the resort, receiving a custom-made gold ring with the resort logo engraved, inlaid with a single diamond. General Manager Joe Najjar, Assistant General Manager Jessica Franken, Food & Beverage Director Pierre Kock and Director of Human Resources Tessely Koolman and her crew, expressed appreciation for the drive, dedication and enthusiasm their people bring to work every day, and the loyalty they show by committing to long-term careers with the company.

The decorated Captain’s Table restaurant also served a delicious buffet of hors d’oeuvres accompanied by flutes of strawberry



champagne. Pictured here, combined three-hundred & eighty years of service celebrated at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club.

## THE OLD FISHERMAN

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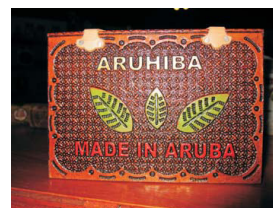
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo “Aruhiba”. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



**BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER**



*At the Westin Gallery*

# "Guadirikiri" by artist Stan Kuiperi opens



PALM BEACH - Acknowledged as one of Aruba's finest artists, Stan Kuiperi presented his latest collection, inspired by the ancient cave paintings of Aruba's prehistoric inhabitants at the Westin Gallery in Palm Beach on Friday, November 27. Officially opening the two-month exposition was Aruba's Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle

Winklaar with Minister of Public Health and Sport, Richard Visser, participating. Stan Kuiperi was raised in Aruba, but began his education in art history, art appreciation, art design, and painting in Puerto Rico and Miami at 18. Based on his U.S. portfolio he was awarded a STICUSA full scholarship to study at art academies in Utrecht and Tilburg, in the Netherlands,

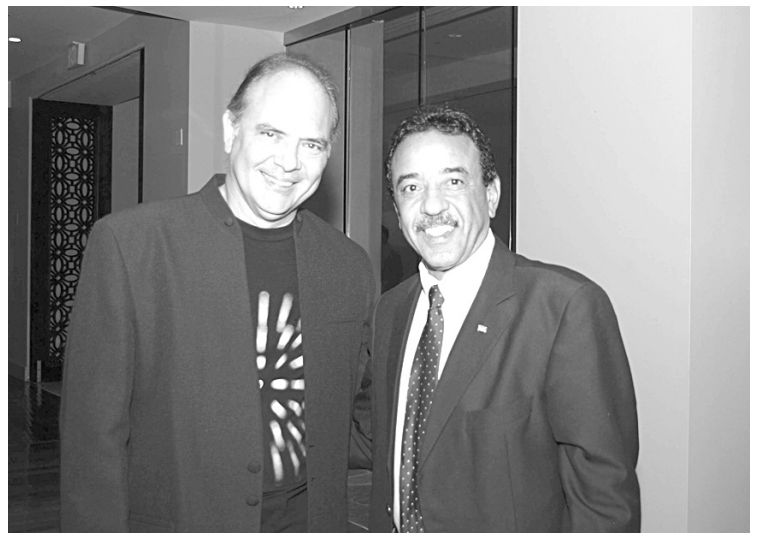


where he received his degree. Following his first solo shows in France and Holland, one of which completely sold out in the first night, he returned to his home island in 1984 to teach art and art education, and contribute his great energy and dedication to cultural development among island youth. For both Stan and his wife Wilma, a noted dancer from Aruba also establishing her career in Europe, "idealistic reasons are still the driving force behind our local, 25-year long professional career in the arts, education and culture."

Stan has been a welcome participant in several group shows on Aruba since his return, and been the focus of a number of solo shows here and in Europe. His work is most commonly themed to Aruba's natural and cultural heritage with its preservation in mind.

The current exposition uses mixed media and block prints to reproduce some of the exact paintings to be found on Aruba's rock formations and caves, but are blended with Stan's often surrealistic vision. The works are grouped geographically, according to the areas where the historic art can be found.

Archeologist Harold



Kelly, a staff member at Aruba's Archeological Museum, remarked that he attended his first art opening because of the subject matter of the work, and was "very impressed. It is remarkable to see these ancient inscriptions I know so well contrasted with modern techniques. I think Stan has done something here that will stimulate anyone to take note and understand the importance of this element of our cultural heritage; perhaps even prompt them to learn more about it."

"This collection serves as a much needed reminder for those instances that have the difficult task of conserving our most

precious and fragile cultural heritage, as well as for the public not to take these for granted," commented Stan.

Minister Winklaar, in her opening speech, categorized Stan as one of Aruba's great artists, because is not only pleasing to the eye, but "it touches our soul, spirit and intellect. This is the difference between and artist being good and great."

"Guadirikiri" is on display at the Westin Aruba Resort lobby gallery 24 hours per day 7 days a week. A gallery representative is present on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and can be reached at 743-4080 for inquiries.





# Breakfast crew ready to play some golf



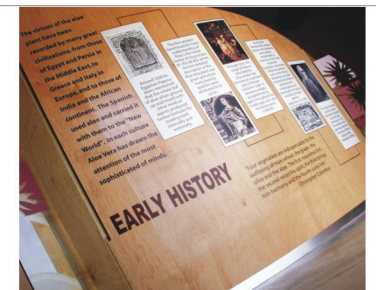
ORANJESTAD - Ready to play golf and kick some .., these three strapping young men first had to get the sandwiches and gift bags ready for the participants of the 15th edition of the Café the Plaza Golf tournament, held this past Saturday at the Tierra del Sol golf course. Jan Roeloffsvalk and brothers Luuk and Hans Nooter got everything ready on time: the bags contained a cap, an egg sandwich and a Dutch 'krentenbol' to keep the golfers of this popular tournament in good physical shape. Well done!

## The Westin Resort, Aruba honors top leaders

PALM BEACH – Cocktails, snacks, and a cruise on the Antilla...what better way to spend an afternoon? Recently, the supervisors and managers of The Westin Resort,



Aruba gathered for a sunset cruise to acknowledge the top leaders of the property during the third quarter, as well as enjoy each other's company away from the pressures of work. General Manager Richard Roy hosted the festivities, while nominated supervisors and managers were each applauded for exemplifying Westin Hotels & Resorts® philosophy to "redefine efficient service with an effortless style and gracious attitude that ensures a truly unforgettable experience," and leading their associates and respective departments to do the same. The winner for Supervisor of the Third quarter was Marina Stamper from Banquets department, who was acknowledged for her excellent motivational skills used to lead her team, and her constant show of respect and appreciation of her associates. The winner for Manager of the Third quarter was Jason Gerling (pictured here) from the Security department. Jason was applauded for always making guests' safety and security his top priority, and maintaining a calm demeanor during stressful situations.



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- **Monday** Seafood Sampler

- **Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

- **Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

- Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

- Friday** International Seafood Festival

- Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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*At the Plaza Café*

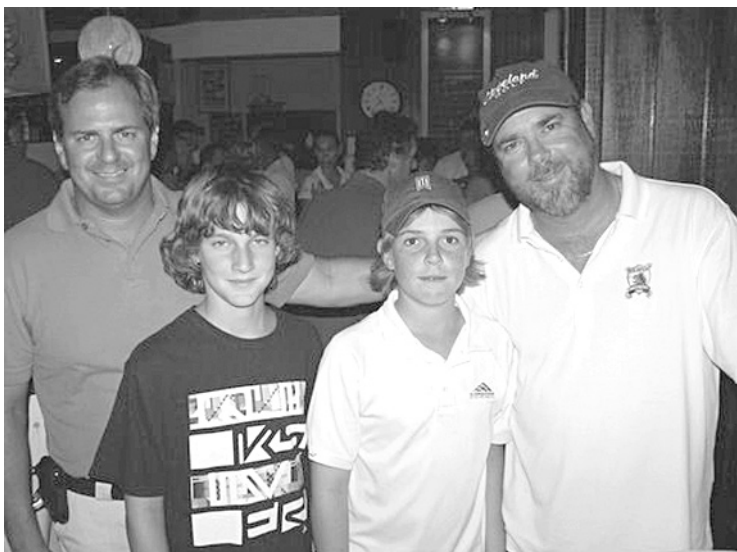
## Après-Golf Party Wraps Up Successful Golf Tournament



ORANJESTAD—Golfplayers convened at the Plaza Café in Oranjestad for an Après-golf party at the end of Tierra Del Sol's 16th annual The Plaza Café tournament.

Head golf pro Oliver Riding acknowledged the Plaza Café as the first to organize a tournament when Tierra del Sol golf course first opened. Owner Hans Notter and his friendly crew of servers and bartenders are still going strong, and the popular tournament in a two person scramble still attracts a lot of attention, annually.

Pictured here 96 players who enjoyed a sunny Saturday golf tournament at Tierra del Sol followed by cold beer and a great Indonesian buffet at the Plaza Café.



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## Dedication and top performance recognized at The Westin Resort, Aruba



PALM BEACH—Recently, The Westin Aruba Resort held the award's ceremony for the Brand Champion of the Month for October. The resort's Cabaret Royale was the site of the event,

decorated a buffet luncheon prepared by the culinary team that included several entrée choices, a full salad and deli bar, and dessert. The associates nominated exemplify the core values

recognized by Westin, including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them



feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The winners among the nominees for the month of October were: Sharitza Jacobs (front of the house) for her ability to flawlessly navigate

multiple responsibilities and her "can do" positive attitude in her In-room Dining duties; Edgard Geerman (heart of the house) for his innate ability to juggle several tasks in the always-demanding Beverage department while still maintaining a pleasant demeanor with his fellow associates and personalized service to guests.



### NEW POKER ROOM

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# America wages new war in Vietnam - on AIDS

By BEN STOCKING,  
Associated Press Writer

TINH BIEN, Vietnam — When her husband fell ill with AIDS, doctors at the hospital turned him away, fearing they would catch the virus.

“They told him, ‘There’s nothing we can do for you. Just go home and wait to die,’” said Do Thi Phuong. So when she too got AIDS, she didn’t seek help, fearing that she would also be shunned. Instead, like her husband, she went home to die.

Then she heard about a little AIDS clinic in the Mekong Delta, in a place where the Americans used to train South Vietnamese soldiers during the Vietnam War. Now, on a regimen of AIDS drugs provided by the U.S., she is getting her strength back.

The clinic at Tinh Bien is one of 55 across Vietnam funded by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, the initiative that President George W. Bush made a centerpiece of his administration.

As memories of the eight-year war fade, the America that older Vietnamese remember, of bombers, guns and Agent Orange, is now represented to many by places such as Tinh Bien, where 340 HIV patients are getting treatment.

The U.S. has spent more than \$300 million fighting AIDS in Vietnam, and is now providing AIDS drugs to more than two-thirds of the 32,000 Vietnamese receiving treatment. At \$85 million this year alone, PEPFAR accounts for 80 percent of U.S. humanitarian spending in the country.

The funding pays for treatment, support for patients’ families, prevention programs and dispelling the AIDS stigma, which is entrenched in Vietnam.

Just how entrenched was demonstrated recently when a group of HIV-positive schoolchildren living at a PEPFAR-supported compound near Ho Chi Minh City were enrolled at a neighborhood school. They were expelled the next day because parents of other students objected.

“The other kids refused to play with me,” said Huyen, 13, who wouldn’t give her last name. “They pointed at me and said, ‘She has AIDS.’”

Phuong feared the stigma too. She said that for a long time she didn’t dare tell anyone she had HIV.

“In the countryside, the only thing people know about AIDS

is that it’s the ‘Disease of the Century.’ They’re afraid they’ll get infected, so they shun you,” she said.

Then she saw a report on TV that life-extending AIDS drugs were available in Vietnam. But the doctors she asked didn’t know where to find them.

Finally, outreach workers learned from a friend of hers that she was ill and invited her to the Tinh Bien clinic.

“The doctors and staff here treat me like I’m just another patient,”

said Phuong, 30.

At the Mai Hoa Center, home to the children who were turned away from school, a memorial display at the center holds rows of urns with remains of former residents.

Until the U.S. began providing AIDS drugs, “We used to have one or two funerals a day. Now we only have one a month,” said Tran Van Nhan, a center volunteer.

PEPFAR has been criticized for its paperwork, which is

regarded as onerous, and for the U.S. ban on spending the money to dispense clean needles and syringes, on the grounds that they might foster drug abuse. Infected needles are the main transmitter of HIV nationally in Vietnam.

Under the Obama administration, PEPFAR is reconsidering this approach, according to Steve Mills, who directs the Vietnam operations of Family Health International. The North Carolina-based nonprofit organization runs the Tinh Bien clinic and

other programs in Vietnam and Cambodia, funded through USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Some question why Vietnam, whose 0.51 percent AIDS prevalence falls short of a generalized epidemic, was chosen. Most of the 15 PEPFAR countries are in Africa, and Vietnam is the only Asian one.

But for Mills, working in Vietnam is special.



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## UAE to back banks amid Dubai meltdown

By BARBARA SURK  
and TAREK EL-TABLAUWY,  
Associated Press Writers

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates' central bank said Sunday it would offer additional liquidity to banks, signaling a push by the federal government to reassure investors worried about the country's banking sector and its exposure to Dubai's crushing debt.

Global equity markets were set to reopen Monday, and investors are worried about a routing similar to that seen last week after Dubai's chief engine for growth, Dubai World, announced it wanted more time to pay some of its roughly \$60 billion in debts. The UAE's official WAM news agency said the central bank issued a notice to Emirati banks and foreign banks with branches in the country saying it would make available "a special additional liquidity facility linked to their current accounts at the central bank." The statement said the facility can be drawn upon at a rate of 50 basis points — half a percent — above the three-month Emirates interbank offered rate. International investors reacted with shock and outrage at Dubai World's announcement Wednesday that, as part of its restructuring effort, it would ask creditors to delay repayment of its debt and that of its real estate arm, Nakheel, until at least May. Nakheel has a \$3.5 billion bond coming due in December. The company's roughly \$60 billion in debt makes up the brunt of the at least \$80 billion Dubai owes as a result of a meteoric decade-long growth boom that saw the tiny city-state transformed into a Middle Eastern Las Vegas, New York and Los Angeles all wrapped into one. Dubai World was a key driver of that growth, with interests ranging from ports to real estate. In the days since the announcement, Dubai officials have gone to neighboring Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich home to the federal government for a series of meetings. Some analysts have speculated that the timing of Dubai World's announcement — on the eve of a three-day Islamic holiday — caught

even Abu Dhabi's rulers by surprise, putting them under pressure to act decisively in a bid to shore up confidence in the country's banks.

Emirati banks are believed to be shouldering a large chunk of Dubai's debts, and international ratings agencies have either downgraded the ratings of some of the country's banks — or at least placed them on review for further downgrades — citing exposure to Dubai World's debt.

The central bank's statement was also aimed mitigating any negative fallout on the country as a whole, with concerns that Abu Dhabi would be branded with the same iron of pessimism and skepticism that Dubai will likely endure for years to come. The UAE's banking system is "more sound and liquid than a year ago," the bank said.

Dubai World's call for more time is seen by many analysts as a classic case of over-extension — a tale of a city-state whose dreams for development propelled it to stardom with its indoor ski-slopes, man-made islands and world's tallest tower.

But that dream was built on borrowed time and money, and as the global recession hammered Dubai, driving property prices down by 50 percent in a year, forcing layoffs and project delays and cancellations, the emirate no longer had access to the easy credit on which it had pinned its growth. It simply couldn't pay.

At the beginning of the year, it launched a \$20 billion bond program, of which \$10 billion was snapped up by the UAE's central bank. The same day Dubai World issued its murky statement about a debt-extension, the emirate's government said a new \$5 billion bond issuance had been bought up by two banks majority owned by Abu Dhabi.

While the Dubai World statement made clear that the bonds were not linked to its debt woes, it was obvious that the emirate had little recourse but to turn to Abu Dhabi, whose more conservative growth was fueled by the same oil that Dubai lacks.

## Bernanke makes case for strong Fed role on banks

By EILEEN AJ CONNELLY,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The chairman of the Federal Reserve is concerned that congressional efforts at financial reform could weaken the central bank's ability to handle future crises and may politicize monetary policy.

Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke made the comments in an Op-Ed piece to appear in Sunday's Washington Post, five days before the Senate Banking committee holds a hearing on his nomination for a second term. His current four-year term expires Jan. 31.

Bernanke wrote the nation is challenged to design a financial oversight system that will "embody the lessons of the past two years and provide a robust framework for preventing future crises and the economic damage they cause."

But two proposals being considered "are very much out of step with the global consensus on the appropriate role of central banks, and they would seriously impair the prospects for economic and financial stability in the United States," he said.

The first item in question is a bill before the Senate that would strip the Fed of its bank regulation authority and give the Senate a role in selecting the 12 regional Federal Reserve bank presidents, proposed by Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn.

Dodd says his measure would return the Fed to its core mission of setting monetary policy, claiming it proved itself "an abysmal failure" by not cracking down on risky lending practices that led to the financial meltdown.

Bernanke countered that the Fed played "a major part in arresting the crisis."

In what will likely be seen as an implicit defense of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who was president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank last year, Bernanke said some government actions may have been "distasteful and unfair" but were needed to avoid a global economic catastrophe rivaling the Great Depression.

"My colleagues at the Federal Reserve and I were determined not to allow that to happen," Bernanke wrote.

Notably, he makes no mention of the bill's language that would strip the Fed of consumer protection authorities, which he has previously

opposed. That may indicate a concession to political and populist demands for a new pro-consumer agency.

The second piece of legislation Bernanke comments on is an amendment from Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, in a House financial regulatory bill that would repeal a 1978 ban on congressional audits of Fed interest-rate decisions.

Paul maintains the repeal would bring more transparency and accountability, and notes it contains language that states it should not be construed as interference in or dictation of monetary policy by Congress. Bernanke said the Fed's ability to set interest rates and provide stimulus through lending and asset-purchase programs depends upon being able to operate independently of political influence. Opening monetary policy decisions to the scrutiny of Congress "would undermine the confidence the public and the markets have in the Fed to act in the long-term economic interest of the nation."

The Fed chairman recognized that the proposals are in part born of public anger over the financial crisis and the rescues of big financial firms.

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

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# INTERNATIONAL

## BON DIA *Aruba* TODAY

On Top Of The News

Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

Monday, November 30, 2009



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Ky., center, shows copy of the Democratic health care reform bill during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Nov. 20, 2009. From left are, Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., McConnell, Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Ariz., Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Associated Press

## Turbulence ahead: Senate opens health care debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic coalition that allowed the health care reform bill to advance is showing signs of stress as the Senate prepares to begin debate Monday.

Some Democratic senators say they'll jump ship from the bill without tighter restrictions on abortion coverage. Others say they'll go unless a government plan to compete with private insurance companies gets tossed overboard. Such concessions would enrage liberals, the heart and soul of the party.

There's no clear course for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to steer legislation through Congress to President Barack Obama. But Reid needs every single one of the Democratic coalition's 60 votes — the magic number that would keep opposition Republicans from blocking the bill's passage.

Reid can't count on any Republicans to help him, but he remains determined to avoid being remembered as another Democrat who tried and failed to guarantee health care access for the America's middle class.

"Generation after generation has called on us to fix this broken system," he said at a recent Capitol Hill rally. "We're now closer than ever to getting it done."

The United States is the only developed country that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens, and President Barack Obama has made overhauling health care his top domestic priority.

Reid's bill includes \$848 billion over 10 years to gradually expand coverage to most of those now uninsured. It would ban onerous insurance industry practices such as denying coverage or charging

higher premiums because of someone's poor health. Those who now have the hardest time getting coverage — the self-employed and small businesses — could buy a policy in a new insurance market, with government subsidies for many. Older people would get better prescription coverage.

Most people covered by big employers would gain more protections without major changes. One exception would be those with high-cost insurance plans, whose premiums could rise as a result of a tax on insurers issue the coverage.

The public is ambivalent about the Democrats' legislation. While 58 percent want elected officials to tackle health care now, about half of those supporters say they don't like what they're hearing about the plans, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll.

*Continued on page 4*



Police team up at the site where four police officers were killed in an ambush at the Forza Coffee Company in Parkland, Wash., on Sunday Nov. 29, 2009.

Associated Press

## Four police officers shot dead at U.S. coffeehouse

GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

PARKLAND, Washington (AP) — A gunman burst into a coffeehouse Sunday and opened fire on four police officers as they sat working on their laptops, killing the three men and one woman in what an official described as a targeted ambush.

Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said officers were looking for one male suspect who fled on foot, but haven't ruled out an accomplice. It wasn't clear whether the officers even had time to draw their weapons to return fire, Troyer said.

*Continued on page 5*



## Irán: Lo construi 10 planta mas pa traha uranium

TEHERAN (AP) — Gobierno di Iran a aproba construcccion di 10 planta nobo pa enrikise uranium, asina un agencia informativo oficial a informa ayera, den un expansion drastico di su polemico programa nuclear cu ta desfia e demandanan di ONU pa e para e proceso ey.

E decision ta bini net algun dia despues cu e organismo nuclear di ONU a censura Iran pa su programa y a exige pa e para construcccion di un compleho di enrikisimento recientemente revela.

E agencia informativo oficial di Iran, IRNA, a bisa cu Gobierno a pidi e Organización di Energía Atómico di Irán pa cuminsa e construcccion di cinco sitio di enrikisimento di uranium cu ya caba a wordo studia y a propone otro cinco sitio a un construcccion futuro.

*Continued on page 6*



# Senator: Troop hike must help boost Afghan forces



In this photo provided by CBS, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., speaks after appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Associated Press

RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The leading Senate Democrat on military matters says President Barack Obama's anticipated plan for significantly expanding U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan must show how these reinforcements will help increase the size of the

Afghan security forces. Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Sunday that more Afghan army and police are central to succeeding in the 8-year-old war and more U.S. trainers and equipment can help meet that goal. But it's unclear, Levin said, what role tens of thousands additional combat troops

will play and Obama has to make a compelling case during a national address he's scheduled to give Tuesday night from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

"The key here is an Afghan surge, not an American surge," Levin said. "We cannot, by ourselves, win (the) war." Levin's remarks are a preview of the possible roadblocks Obama faces from his own party as he prepares to sell a broader, more expensive battle plan for Afghanistan to an American public weary of the conflict that began just weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

At West Point, Obama is expected to announce an increase of up to 35,000 more U.S. forces to defeat the Taliban-led insurgency and stabilize a weak Afghan government. The escalation, which would take place over the next year, would put more than 100,000 American troops in Afghanistan at an annual cost of about \$75 billion.

Levin and other Democrats are concerned over the price tag and have proposed a war tax to pay for operations.

With Obama's Afghanistan speech coming as the Senate takes up the debate over the health care overhaul, a senior Republican senator recommended that Congress postpone the health care effort until next year so Congress can concentrate on how to pay for the military operations.

Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said many issues should be considered, including the possibility of raising taxes.

"The war is terribly important," Lugar said. "Jobs and our economy are terribly important. So this may be an audacious suggestion, but I would suggest we put aside the health care debate until next year, the same way we put cap and trade and climate change, and talk now about the essentials: the war and money."

But Democratic Sen. Jack Reed said health care legislation is at a critical stage and passing it is too important to the economy and American businesses.

"I think we're in the midst of probably the most significant debate and conclusion with legislation that we've ever had," Reed said. "We have to go ahead and conclude this debate."

Reed, also a member of the Armed Services Committee, said he is looking for Obama to lay out a strategy that reaches beyond Afghanistan and involves protecting the U.S. from al-Qaida. That involves being influential in neighboring Pakistan and a combination of intelligence, counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations, he said.

"And the key element here is not just more troops. The key element is shifting the operations to the Afghans," Reed said. "And if that can be done, then I would support the president."

## Senators: Take action against White House dinner party crashers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two senators said Sunday that authorities should pursue criminal charges against the Virginia couple who crashed last week's state dinner at the White House.

"You've got to send a strong deterrent that people just don't do this kind of thing," Democrat Evan Bayh said on "Fox News Sunday."

Republican Jon Kyl agreed, saying, "If it's a federal crime to lie to a federal agent, and these people didn't tell the truth about their invitation, then they should be in some way brought to justice here, again, as an example to others not to do it."

According to authorities, Michael and Tareq Salahi were allowed into the White House dinner Tuesday night even though they were not on the guest list. The Secret Service has apologized for the breakdown in security, and an investigation into possible criminal behavior is ongoing.

Casey Margenau, a friend of the Salahis, appeared Saturday on Fox News Channel's "Geraldo at Large" and said, "I understand that they spent Friday with the Secret Service and they have been cooperating."

The New York Times, citing an anonymous federal official, reported Sunday that the Secret Service interviews with the Salahis continued through Saturday.



This photo released by the White House Nov. 27, 2009, shows President Barack Obama greeting Michael and Tareq Salahi, right, at a State Dinner hosted by Obama for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the White House in Washington Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009. The Secret Service is looking into its own security procedures after determining that the uninvited Virginia couple managed to slip into the dinner. Associated Press

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan refused Sunday to provide information on the investigation, telling The Associated Press, "We are not going to comment any more this weekend."

"It's an incredible situation," said Bayh. "I mean, of course, people have been laughing about it, ... but it's not a laughing matter that people could get that close to the president and the vice president who aren't supposed to be there."

Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander in Afghanistan, has recommended speeding up the growth of the Afghan army and police. He wants an overall Afghan security force of 400,000 — 240,000 army troops and 160,000 police officers — by 2013.

Levin has proposed moving that date back by a year to 2012.

Levin also said a new Senate report about the failure to kill or capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan's Tora Bora region in December 2001 underscores the Bush administration's mistake of concentrating more on Iraq than Afghanistan.

"We took our eye off the ball," Levin said. "Instead of moving in on him at Tora Bora, the previous administration decided to move its forces to Iraq. It was a mistake then. And I think this report ... just sort of reinforces that."

Levin appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation." Lugar and Reed appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."



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## AP Impact: For-profit colleges haul in gov't aid

By JUSTIN POPE, AP Education Writer  
 RALEIGH, N.C. — Students aren't the only ones benefiting from the billions of new dollars Washington is spending on college aid for the poor.

An Associated Press analysis shows surging proportions of both low-income students and the recently boosted government money that follows them are ending up at for-profit schools, from local career colleges to giant publicly traded chains such as the University of Phoenix, Kaplan and DeVry.

Last year, the five institutions that received the most federal Pell Grant dollars were all for-profit colleges, collecting over \$1 billion among them. That was two and a half times what those schools hauled in just two years prior, the AP found, analyzing Department of Education data on disbursements from the Pell program, Washington's main form of college aid to the poor. This year, the trend is accelerating: In the first quarter after the maximum Pell Grant was increased last July 1, Washington paid out 45 percent more through the program than during the same period a year ago, the AP found. But the amount of dollars heading to for-profit, or "proprietary," schools is up even more — about 67 percent.

For-profit colleges say the country has little choice but to accept their help to achieve President Obama's goal of getting every American to enroll in some form of education beyond high school. The for-profit schools have space while community colleges are bursting at the seams. Besides, their convenience and career-focused curriculum are clearly winning customers, who are free to use their aid where they choose.

But critics say the increased federal aid has unleashed a new gold rush. They complain the industry has too many incentives simply to enroll students and tap the spigot from Washington — and not enough to make sure students succeed.

The industry is "an aggressive sales operation that has a voracious appetite for recruiting the poorest students," said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of AACRAO, a group representing admissions officers and registrars at traditional colleges. "The victims here are the students themselves and the taxpayers, who have to pick up the tab."

Regardless of how AP's findings are interpreted, they underscore the extent to which the United States has ramped up its support for low-income college students in recent years, but increasingly outsourced the job to the private sector.

- Last year, Washington paid out a record \$18.3 billion in Pell Grants, which typically go to families earning under \$40,000. Proprietary colleges collected about \$4.3 billion of that, or about 24 percent — roughly double the proportion a decade ago.

- In the first quarter of the current academic year, for-profit colleges collected \$1.65 billion, or 67 percent more than in the same period a year ago. On July 1, the government made more students eligible for Pell grants and increased the maximum award by \$600 to \$5,350.

- For-profits are also grabbing a growing share of loans subsidized by the government to help low-income students. They collected about \$7 billion in subsidized Stafford loans in 2008-2009, up from \$4.7 billion two years before. Taxpayers subsidize the interest rate and take the hit when students default. Nearly one-quarter of students at for-profit schools default within four years, more that double the rate of other schools.

Overall, the sector enrolled about 2.7 million students in 2007-2008, the latest year with complete federal data available. That was only about 10 percent of total enrollment in higher education, but it's about 2 million more than a decade before.

The numbers are even more striking for low-income students: The number of Pell recipients

enrolled in for-profit schools is 50 percent higher than two years ago.

Phoenix alone had more than 230,000 Pell recipients last year (and received \$657 million Pell dollars, roughly its parent company's yearly profit). Its campuses educate nearly four times more low-income students than the entire Big 10, and more than 30 times the Ivy League, the AP found. Unlike proprietary schools, those traditional colleges enjoy tax-free status for supposedly providing a public service, notes Harris Miller, president and CEO of the Career College Association.

On a recent weeknight at a University of Phoenix branch in Raleigh, students began streaming in during early evening. Virtually all work full time. Many were older than traditional college students and many were minorities. The "campus" is a suburban office building off a highway interchange. Inside, the feel is thoroughly corporate — computer work stations, sleek desks, wired classrooms with whiteboards.

Aja Holmes, a 28-year-old single mother of two, dropped out of nearby North Carolina State University after having her first child a decade ago. Now she's hoping to complete a degree and move up in the pharmaceutical company where she works. She's paying her tuition with a Pell Grant, government loans and employer support. The big draw is convenience.

"I can work full time and still spend time with my kids," she said. "I can do my homework at night. All my books are online, so I can take my laptop anywhere and read. The program has been good for me."

Critics acknowledge for-profit schools can be a good match for some. But they point out median graduation rates of just 38 percent (for-profit colleges counter they're taking on less well prepared kids, and say they actually do much better than community colleges with two-year programs).



Students who don't graduate will be hard pressed to repay their debts. On average, for-profit schools cost five and a half times the price of community colleges. Virtually all students must borrow some money, and even among graduates of for-profit four-year programs, the average borrower ends up owing \$33,000, according to the latest government data analyzed by Mark Kantrowitz of the Web site finaid.org. That's about \$5,000 higher than even private nonprofit four-year colleges.

The sector also can't seem to shake recurring allegations it's accepting underqualified students just to secure their federal aid, dooming them to failure. Phoenix has set aside \$80.5 million to cover a possible settlement of a whistleblower lawsuit alleging it illegally compensated recruiters based on how many students they enrolled. Other complaints include a lawsuit against privately held Westwood College of Colorado alleging students were misled about fees and tricked into signing high-interest loans. Westwood denies the allegations.

Nassirian and others want students to get more reliable data on outcomes, and not just what they hear from slick TV ads. Apollo Group Inc., which owns the University of Phoenix, spent close to \$1 billion on selling and promotional costs last year. In the late 1980s, the proportion of Pell dollars going to for-profits was similar to now. But a

regulation now called the "90-10" rule, which requires colleges to collect at least 10 percent of their revenue from nongovernment sources, drove hundreds of shady operations under and lowered the proportion.

Now, that number is back up — so much, in fact, that companies such as Apollo are worried about bumping up against the 90-10 rule. Government dollars accounted for 86 percent of Phoenix's revenue last year, compared with less than half as recently as 2001.

Most critics insist they don't oppose the principle of for-profit higher education. But they say the sector has been mollycoddled by friendly lawmakers, who have watered down the 90-10 rule. They want the loopholes closed. The federal government has taken steps to help students make more informed choices, said Deputy Undersecretary of Education Robert Shireman. Last August, students completing federal financial aid forms began receiving graduation and transfer rate data on the schools they are considering. By next July, every school will have to provide at least general information on job placement.

"Our primary concern is that consumers and students are served well," he said. But, he added, "this is a consumer choice system."



## Turbulence ahead

*Continued from front page*

The Senate debate risks alienating more people because much of the discussion probably will revolve around divisive issues that preoccupy lawmakers.

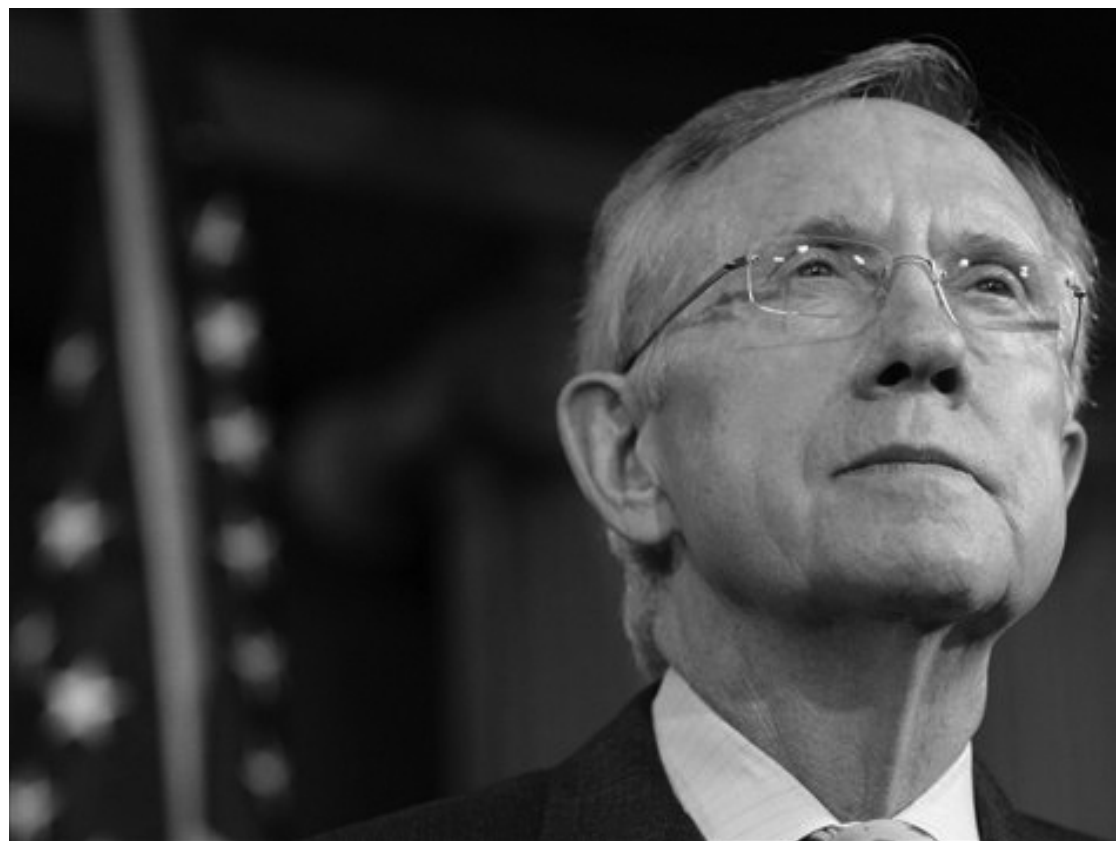
“A large portion of the debate will be spent on issues that aren’t important to the workability of health reform,” said Paul Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change.

The debate should start off modestly, with each side offering one amendment. No votes are scheduled Monday. But with more than 40 senators on the two committees that originated the bill, many more amendments are expected. Some likely subjects are

limits on malpractice lawsuits, consumer choice, affordability, minority health and drug prices.

Reid wants to finish by Christmas; he may not get to. He’s hoping that Democrats will stick together on procedural matters, where Senate rules require 60 votes to advance. That would allow for different views to be heard on the underlying questions. But such an accommodation might not always be possible. For example, the National Right to Life to Committee says unless there are big changes, it will count the procedural motion to allow a final up-or-down vote on the legislation as tantamount to a vote on abortion.

Of the many issues senators have to weigh, abortion funding and the option of a government insurance



In this Nov. 18, 2009, file photo, Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., speaks during a news conference on health care reform on Capitol Hill in Washington. With the Senate set to begin debate Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, on health care overhaul, the all-hands-on-deck Democratic coalition that allowed the bill to advance is fracturing already. Yet majority Democrats will need 60 votes again to finish.

Associated Press

plan promise to be the most difficult.

On abortion, no compromise seems possible. On the public plan, a deal may yet be had.

The House adopted strict limits on abortion funding

as the price for the support of anti-abortion Democrats.

Abortion rights supporters are now backing Reid’s approach, which tries to preserve coverage for abortion while stipulating that federal dollars may not be used except in

cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. Catholic bishops say they can’t accept that because it would let federally subsidized plans cover abortion.

It might be easier to find a middle ground on the issue of a public health plan to compete against private insurers.

Reid’s bill would create a national plan, but give states the choice of opting out. In any event, the Congressional Budget Office now estimates that the government would not be the bare-knuckles competitor insurers had feared, but a relatively minor player in the market.

Several moderate Democrats have served notice they can’t support Reid’s approach. The lone Republican to vote for the Senate bill in committee, Olympia Snowe of Maine, has said she could accept a public plan if insurers are given one last chance to deliver lower premiums in a competitive market.

Combining Snowe’s “trigger” with Reid’s “opt-out” might be the answer.

If that’s the case, it still would have to pass a final test: 60 votes.

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## Coffeehouse

Continued from front page

"This was more of an execution. Walk in with the specific mindset to shoot police officers," Troyer said. Troyer said the officers — all from the Lakewood Police Department — were catching up on paperwork at the beginning of their shifts when they were attacked at 8:15 a.m. Sunday.

Troyer said the attack was clearly targeted at the officers, not a robbery gone bad.

"There were marked patrol cars outside and they were all in uniform," Troyer said.

With no known suspects, there was no indication of any connection with the Halloween night shooting of a Seattle police officer. The suspect in that shooting remains hospitalized.

"We won't know if it's a copycat effect or what it was until we get the case solved," Troyer said. "We don't even have a suspect ID right now. Troyer would not release the names of the victims in Sunday's shooting.

Two employees and a few other customers were in the shop during the shooting. All are being interviewed by the Pierce County Sheriff's investigators.

"Some are in shock. They are very upset," Troyer said. "They are the ones who are going to put together for us how this happened."

The Forza Coffee Shop, part of a popular local chain, is on a side street near McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, south of Seattle. The shop is in a small retail center alongside two restaurants, a cigar store and a nail salon.

Brad Carpenter, founder and owner of Forza Coffee, said his staff was OK and being interviewed by police, and that his main concern was with the families of the police officers.

"I'm a retired police officer, so this really hits close to home for me," he said.

Streets around the coffee shop were blocked off late Sunday morning, and a police helicopter hovered over a large crowd of investigators. TV video showed police taking possession of a pickup truck parked in a grocery store in Parkland.

"We are looking at some people. We are looking at some cars. We are looking at some residences," Troyer said.

Troyer urged people to stay away from scenes to avoid interfering and putting themselves at risks

Dave Gabrielson, a clerk at Foot Mart about a block away from the coffee shop, told the newspaper all was quiet when he opened the store at 8 a.m.

About 30 minutes later, "All of a sudden a million cops were zooming up and down the road," Gabrielson said.

He said he saw officers bring a police dog into a nearby apartment complex.

Last month, Seattle police officer Timothy Brenton was shot and killed Halloween night as he was sitting in a cruiser with trainee Britt Sweeney. Sweeney was grazed in the neck.

Authorities say the man charged with that shooting also firebombed four police vehicles in October as part of a "one-man war" against law enforcement. Christopher Monfort, 41, was arrested days after the Seattle shooting and remains hospitalized.

Monfort remains hospitalized in stable condition, the hospital said Sunday.

Washington Gov. Chris



Gregoire said she was "shocked and horrified" by the killings.

"Our police put their lives on the line every day, and tragedies like this remind us of the risks they continually take to keep our communities safe," she said in a written statement. "My heart goes out to the family, friends and co-workers of these officers, as well as the entire law enforcement community."

At Rolli's Tavern near the

coffee house, the plasma TVs usually tuned to football had Northwest Cable News on. Three bar patrons live next door to the coffee house.

Jerry Arnold, 45, was in bed when he was awakened by sirens. He's lived there seven years and never seen anything close to Sunday's scene.

"I hope they get them. I can't sleep until they do," he said. "Those guys could be hiding in my backyard."

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Iran enrichment

Continued from front page

E decision a wordo tuma durante un sesion di ministernan encabeza door di Presidente Mahmud Ahmadinejad ayera tardi, segun IRNA. Diabierna, e Hunta di Organismo Internacional di Energía Atómico a aproba un resolucion cu ta exigi Teheran pa para mesora cu construccion di su instalacionnan uclear – recientemente revela – cerca di Qom y di enrikise uranium. Un legislador Conservador Iraní a advirti diasabra cu su pais lo por retira di Tratado di No Proliferación Nuclear despues di e resolucion di censura di ONU riba Irán. E medida lo por stroba seriamente e intentonan mundial pa evita cu e nacion

ey ta desaroya armanan atomico. Si Irán retira di e tratado, su programa nuclear lo stop di ta wordo poni na inspeccion door di e agencia nuclear di ONU. Esey tambe lo ta un golpi pa e esfuertonan pa garantiza cu e no ta desvia e uranium enrikisi pa usa den crea armanan nuclear.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, left, shakes hands with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko, as he welcomes him for their meeting in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Russia is helping Iran to complete its first nuclear power plant, in early 2010, after repeating delays. Associated Press




NZ man caught by river rescue dilemma

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — As his wife floundered screaming for help in murky river water, a frantic New Zealand man was forced to abandon a bid to rescue his teenage son to save his partner from drowning, he said Monday. Stacy Horton saved his wife, Vanessa, 35, as their son Silva, 13, drowned in the Whanganui River on North Island after her car plunged into the river late Saturday. Horton said he arrived at the crash scene less than two minutes after the accident to hear his wife screaming in the darkness and to see his son’s friend and the family dog scrambling up the bank. His son Silva was trapped inside the submerged station wagon. He tried to dive down to the vehicle, which was nose down but with the tail lights burning more than 3 feet (1 meter) below the surface, he told the Dominion Post newspaper. “I tried to get down and get him but I couldn’t

— it was just too deep. And Vanessa was going under,” Horton told the newspaper. “I made a call to pull my wife to safety. I looked back and I could see the tail lights but it was too far and I couldn’t get him,” he said. “Instead of going down and risking my life as well as my wife and son’s, I chose to take V(anessa) back and sat on the shore praying. It was all I could do,” a distraught Horton said. Police and fire officers also were unable to rescue the boy from inside the vehicle. Mid-Central police spokeswoman Kim Perks said Monday it was a very tough call for Horton. “I would certainly not have wanted to be in his shoes.” Senior fire station officer Gary Wilson said the water was dark and murky and firefighters struggled in vain to reach the car. “We tried everything but to no avail,” Wilson said. Divers recovered the boy’s body on Sunday.



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| PG    | OLD DOGS                                | daily: 4:15<br>matinee: 12:15 | 6:15<br>2:15  | 8:15<br>late show: | 10:15<br>12:15 | NEW |
| PG-13 | THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON             | daily: 12:15<br>matinee: 3:00 | 5:45<br>3:00  | 8:45<br>late show: | 23:45          | NEW |
| R     | PRECIOUS                                | daily: 1:15<br>matinee: 3:45  | 6:15<br>3:45  | 8:45<br>late show: | 11:15          |     |
| R     | NEX DAY AIR                             | daily: 7:45<br>matinee: 10:00 | 7:45<br>10:00 | late show: 12:00   |                |     |
| PG    | THIS IS IT:MICHAEL JACKSON              | daily: 1:00<br>matinee: 3:30  | 6:00<br>3:30  | 8:30<br>late show: | 11:00          |     |
| PG    | TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS | daily: 12:00<br>matinee: 4:00 | 2:00<br>6:00  | late show:         |                | 3D  |
| G     | SINTERKLAAS EN DE VERDWENEN PAKJESBOOT  | daily: 12:00<br>matinee: 4:30 | 2:15<br>6:45  | late show:         |                |     |
| R     | THE STEPFATHER                          | daily: 9:00<br>matinee: 11:30 |               |                    |                |     |

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| PG-13 | THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON | daily: 12:00<br>matinee: 2:45 | 5:30<br>2:45 | 8:30<br>late show: | 11:30 | NEW |
| PG-13 | 2012                        | daily: 1:00<br>matinee: 4:30  | 4:30<br>8:00 | late show: 11:15   |       |     |
| PG    | ASTRO BOY                   | daily: 12:00<br>matinee: 2:15 | 4:30<br>2:15 | late show:         |       |     |
| R     | LAW ABIDING CITIZEN         | daily: 9:15<br>matinee: 12:00 |              |                    |       |     |
| PG    | THIS IS IT:MICHAEL JACKSON  | daily: 12:45<br>matinee: 3:15 | 5:45<br>3:15 | 8:15<br>late show: | 11:00 |     |
| PG-13 | COUPLES RETREAT             | daily: 7:15<br>matinee: 9:45  | 7:15<br>9:45 | late show: 12:15   |       |     |
| PG-13 | WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE   | daily: 12:30<br>matinee: 2:45 | 5:00<br>2:45 | late show:         |       |     |
| R     | PARANORMAL ACTIVITY         | daily: 6:45<br>matinee: 9:00  | 6:45<br>9:00 | late show: 11:15   |       |     |
| PG    | A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D        | daily: 12:15<br>matinee: 2:30 | 4:45<br>2:30 | 7:00<br>late show: |       | 3D  |

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# Swiss ban mosque minarets in surprise vote

ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS  
Associated Press Writer  
GENEVA (AP) — Swiss voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional ban on minarets on Sunday, barring construction of the iconic mosque towers in a surprise vote that put Switzerland at the forefront of a European backlash against a growing Muslim population.

Muslim groups in Switzerland and abroad condemned the vote as biased and anti-Islamic. Business groups said the decision hurt Switzerland's international standing and could damage relations with Muslim nations and wealthy investors who bank, travel and shop there.

"The Swiss have failed to give a clear signal for diversity, freedom of religion and human rights," said Omar Al-Rawi, integration representative of the Islamic Denomination in Austria, which said its reaction was "grief and deep disappointment."

About 300 people turned out for a spontaneous demonstration on the square outside parliament, holding up signs saying, "That is not my Switzerland," placing candles in front of a model of a minaret and making another minaret shape out of the candles themselves.

"We're sorry," said another sign. A young woman pinned to her jacket a piece of paper saying, "Swiss passport for sale."

The referendum by the nationalist Swiss People's Party labeled minarets as symbols of rising Muslim political power that could one day transform Switzerland into an Islamic nation. The

initiative was approved 57.5 to 42.5 percent by some 2.67 million voters. Only four of the 26 cantons or states opposed the initiative, granting the double approval that makes it part of the Swiss constitution.

Muslims comprise about 6 percent of Switzerland's 7.5 million people. Many are refugees from the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s and about one in 10 actively practices their religion, the government says.

The country's four standing minarets, which won't be affected by the ban, do not traditionally broadcast the call to prayer outside their own buildings.

The sponsors of the initiative provoked complaints of bias from local officials and human-rights group with campaign posters that showed minarets rising like missiles from the Swiss flag next to a fully veiled woman. Backers said the growing Muslim population was straining the country "because Muslims don't just practice religion."

"The minaret is a sign of political power and demand, comparable with whole-body covering by the burqa, tolerance of forced marriage and genital mutilation of girls," the sponsors said. They said Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan compared mosques to Islam's military barracks and called "the minarets our bayonets." Erdogan made the comment in citing an Islamic poem many years before he became prime minister.

Anxieties about growing Muslim minorities have rippled across Europe in recent years, leading to

legal changes in some countries. There have been French moves to ban the full-length body covering known as the burqa. Some German states have introduced bans on head scarves for Muslim women teaching in public schools. Mosques and minaret construction projects in Sweden, France, Italy, Austria, Greece, Germany and Slovenia have been met by protests.

But the Swiss ban in minarets, sponsored by the country's largest political party, was one of the most extreme reactions.

"It's a sad day for freedom of religion," said Mohammed Shafiq, the chief executive of the Ramadhan Foundation, a British youth organization. "A constitutional amendment that's targeted towards one religious community is discriminatory and abhorrent."

He said he was concerned the decision could have reverberations in other European countries.

Amnesty International said the vote violated freedom of religion and would probably be overturned by the Swiss supreme court or the European Court of Human Rights.

The seven-member Cabinet that heads the Swiss government had spoken out strongly against the initiative but the government said it accepted the vote and would impose an immediate ban on minaret construction.

It said that "Muslims in Switzerland are able to practice their religion alone or in community with others, and live



**A model of a minaret, burning candles and a banner that reads "This is not my Switzerland" are seen on the Bundesplatz square in front of the governments building in Bern, Switzerland, to protest the acceptance of a minaret ban initiative on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009.**

**Associated Press**

according to their beliefs just as before." It took the unusual step of issuing its press release in Arabic as well as German, French, Italian and English.

Sunday's results stood in stark contrast to opinion polls, last taken 10 days ago, that showed 37 percent supporting the proposal. Experts said before the vote that they feared Swiss had pretended during the polling that they opposed the ban because they didn't want to appear intolerant.

"The sponsors of the ban have achieved something everyone wanted to prevent, and that is to influence and change the relations to Muslims and their social integration in a negative way," said Taner Hatipoglu, president of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Zurich.

"Muslims indeed will not feel safe anymore."

The People's Party has campaigned mainly unsuccessfully in previous years against immigrants with campaign posters showing white sheep kicking a black sheep off the Swiss flag and another with brown hands grabbing eagerly for Swiss passports.

Geneva's main mosque was vandalized Thursday when someone threw a pot of pink paint at the entrance. Earlier this month, a vehicle with a loudspeaker drove through the area imitating a muezzin's call to prayer, and vandals damaged a mosaic when they threw cobblestones at the building.



# Former rebel leader is Uruguay's president-elect



**Uruguay's president-elect Jose Mujica, left, gestures to supporters accompanied by Uruguay's President Tabare Vazquez in Montevideo, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Mujica, a former leftist rebel, won just over 50 percent of the votes according to exit polls by all three of the country's leading pollsters.**

**Associated Press**

MICHAEL WARREN  
Associated Press Writer  
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — A plain-talking former leader of leftist guerrillas who once sought power through kidnappings and bombings is now the president-elect of Uruguay. Jose Mujica won more than

50 percent of the votes cast in a run-off election Sunday, according to exit polls by the South American country's three leading pollsters, giving the center-left Broad Front coalition five more years in power. Former President Luis A. Lacalle of the center-right

National Party conceded defeat. He trailed with about 45 percent of the votes, exit polls by Cifra, Factum and Equipos Mori said. The Electoral Court was expected to release official results late Sunday.

Lacalle had sought to portray his rival as a radical who would transform Uruguay into an extremist socialist state, but Mujica campaigned as a consensus builder, saying he would continue the policies of popular President Tabare Vazquez and work to unify Latin Americans after taking office begins March 1.

The Tupamaro guerrillas, which were co-founded by Mujica, caused so much chaos in the 1960s that Uruguayans initially welcomed a dictatorship that ruled in 1973-85. Mujica spent all that time in prison, enduring torture and solitary confinement, an experience he said cured him of any illusion that armed revolution can achieve lasting social change. Mujica, 74, vowed to do everything possible to build bridges and avoid creating an atmosphere of tension and drama. He said negotiation and dialogue would be his tools,

and cited Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as his inspiration.

The Broad Front held on to a narrow majority in Congress, where Mujica's wife, Sen. Lucia Topolansky, earned the most votes and will therefore be third in line to the presidency, after Vice President-elect Danilo Astori, an economist initially favored by Vazquez to succeed him.

The National Party traded power with the right-wing Colorado Party for 150 years until the Broad Front pulled more than 20 leftist factions together five years ago to give Vazquez a presidential victory. Lacalle, a scion of Uruguay's political elite, finished second in October's first-round election, and picked up most Colorado Party votes, but the two parties combined no longer have the numbers to defeat the leftists.

Many voters said the single five-year term required by Uruguay's constitution wasn't enough to consolidate the successes of Vazquez, a Marxist oncologist and former Montevideo mayor who enjoyed 71 percent approval

ratings in a poll this month.

Vazquez imposed a progressive income tax, using the additional revenue to lower unemployment and poverty, provide equal access to health care to everyone under 18 and steer the economy to 1.9 percent growth this year even as many other economies shrank during the worldwide downturn.

Lacalle, in contrast, was a champion of privatization during his 1990-95 term and vowed this time to eliminate the income tax and "take a chain saw" to state bureaucracies. But he also acknowledged Vazquez's successes, saying he would make no major changes in economic policies.

Mujica helped start the Tupamaros, one of many Latin American leftist rebel groups inspired by the Cuban revolution in the 1960s to organize kidnappings, bombings, robberies and other attacks on U.S.-backed right-wing governments. Convicted of killing a policeman in 1971, he endured torture and solitary confinement during nearly 15 years in prison.

Mujica's wife also was a Tupamaro leader, and like him was tortured during more than 13 years in prison.

In the quarter-century since the dictatorship ended and they were granted amnesty, the couple transformed the Tupamaros into a legitimate political movement that is now the driving force behind the Broad Front.

But Mujica still has the appearance of an anti-politician, a gruff old man more comfortable driving a tractor on his farm than shuffling through marbled halls.

In a July speech, Mujica vowed to distance the left from "the stupid ideologies that come from the 1970s — I refer to things like unconditional love of everything that is state-run, scorn for businessmen and intrinsic hate of the United States.

"I'll shout it if they want: Down with isms! Up with a left that is capable of thinking outside the box! In other words, I am more than completely cured of simplifications, of dividing the world into good and evil, of thinking in black and white. I have repented!"



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Photo by Diane Keijzer





*Capsized ferry righted in*

# Bangladesh; 58 people dead

FARID HOSSAIN

Associated Press Writer

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A rescue ship righted a capsized ferry on Sunday, easing the work of those searching the submerged cabins for scores believed trapped inside more than a day after the boat sank in southern Bangladesh. So far, 58 people have been confirmed dead, authorities said.

The M.V. Coco was packed with hundreds of travelers leaving Dhaka to head home for the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha when it went down late Friday. It started to take on water as it arrived at Nazirhat town in the coastal district of Bhola, 64 miles (104 kilometers) south of the capital.

Gas torches were used to cut open submerged cabins, and local residents joined divers to search for survivors inside the ferry in the Tetulia River. Operations picked up Sunday — more than 36 hours after the accident — when a rescue ship used iron ropes to right the submerged ferry, exposing more than a dozen bodies inside its water-filled hull, local police official Mohammad Mahmud said.

The recovery took the total number of dead to 58 — most of them women and children —

before the search was suspended for the night, Mahmud said.

Authorities said there were no passenger lists, so it was unclear how many people were aboard the vessel, but Dhaka's private ETV television station said it could have been carrying more than 1,500 people. Officials would not say how many remained unaccounted for; Dhaka's mass circulation Prothom Alo daily said it could be 50. The boat was approved to carry 1,000 people.

Hundreds of anxious relatives massed on the sandy river bank and searched for their missing loved ones over the weekend.

Some complained that rescue work was slow as officials were on holiday for Saturday's Eid celebration.

"The ferry sank just before midnight Friday, but rescuers did not arrive until the morning," said survivor Sohel Hossain.

On Sunday evening, the anger bubbled over, and some people who had been waiting for hours for their news of the missing briefly threw stones at rescuers, Monaj Kumar Sohag, a local journalist said from the scene. No one was hurt from the protest, he said.

Some survivors said the boat hit a shoal as



The triple-deck ferry, M.V. Coco, floats after it tipped and its rear portion sank in the Tetulia River late Friday near the coastal town of Bhola, 64 miles south of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009. The ferry packed with people going home for an Islamic festival capsized as they disembarked at a terminal in southern Bangladesh, authorities said Saturday.

Associated Press

it approached the dock in Nazirhat, splitting the hull. As passengers scrambled to abandon the vessel, it tipped and partially sank.

"As I saw water in the lower deck, I jumped through the window and swam ashore," Shahidul Islam, a survivor, said Saturday. "Many passengers were frightened after seeing water in the lower deck and started rushing out, causing the boat to tilt on one side."

Ferries are a key mode of transport in the delta nation of 150 million people. Accidents blamed on lax rules, overcrowding and faulty boats are common.

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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



Indianapolis Colts linebacker Clint Session (55) celebrates his 26-yard return of an interception for a touchdown with teammates Antoine Bethea (41), Gary Brackett (58), Robert Mathis (98) and Raheem Brock (79) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Houston Texans on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, in Houston.

Associated Press

## Colts remain perfect, win AFC South

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
AP Sports Writer

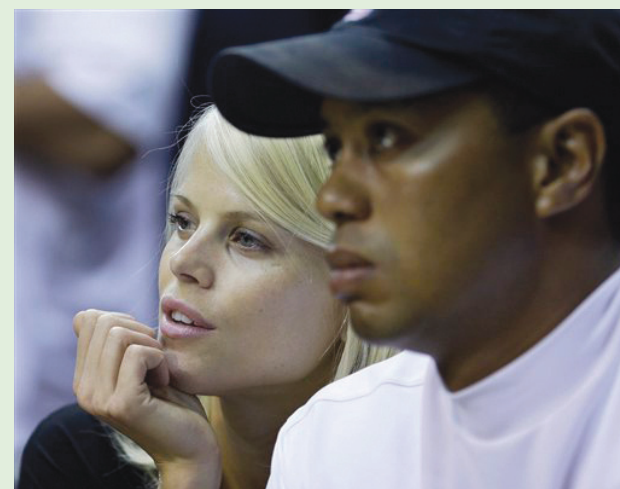
HOUSTON — The AFC South champion Indianapolis Colts have perfected the art of the comeback in their undefeated march into the playoffs.

Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns and the Colts rallied from a 13-point

halftime deficit Sunday for a 35-27 win over the Texans, their 20th straight regular-season victory. Indianapolis (11-0) is one win shy of the New England Patriots' NFL-record 21-game run from 2006-08. The Colts can tie the record if they beat Tennessee at home next weekend.

The Colts improved to 15-1 against Houston (5-6) in their fifth straight come-from-behind win. They became the first team to secure a playoff berth and gained the AFC South title Sunday evening when San Francisco beat Jacksonville 20-3.

*Continued on next*



FILE - In this June 11, 2009 file photo, Elin Nordegren talks to her husband, golfer Tiger Woods during the first quarter of Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals in Orlando, Fla. Tiger Woods was injured early Friday, Nov. 27, 2009 when he lost control of his SUV outside his Florida mansion.

Associated Press

## For third time, Woods cancels meeting with police

FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

WINDERMERE, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods finally gave his side of the story Sunday — on his Web site, not to police — and took the blame for an “embarrassing” car crash that gave him cuts, bruises and public scrutiny like never before.

His statement failed to clear up any questions about the middle-of-the-night accident outside his Isleworth estate in which his wife told police she used a golf club to smash the back windows of the Cadillac SUV to help him out.

*Continued on page 12*



Russia's Nikolay Davydenko celebrates with the trophy after he beat Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro to win the final of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 29, 2009.

Associated Press

## Davydenko beats Del Potro

*Wins ATP finals*

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Nikolay Davydenko won the first big tournament of his career Sunday, running down just about every ball and using a consistent serve to beat U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 6-4 to win the ATP World Tour Finals.

Davydenko, who eliminated top-ranked Roger Federer in the semifinals, dominated his service games against Del Potro, losing only five points on serve in the first set and eight in the second.

“Maybe I had good concentration. I was surprised,” said Davydenko, who has reached four Grand Slam semifinals but never made a

final. “I was coming in from first point (with) 100 percent concentration. It was, I think, important for this match today.”

Del Potro had three chances to break Davydenko, but the Russian saved them all to complete a sweep of all three of this year's Grand Slam champions at the season-ending tournament.

“He's very fast. He plays like PlayStation,” Del Potro said. “He runs to everywhere. It's very difficult to make winners.”

Davydenko also reached the final of last year's tournament for the top eight players in the world, but he lost to Novak Djokovic. That tournament was played in Shanghai.



## NBA Roundup

## Garnett nearly perfect as Celtics top Heat 92-85

MIAMI (AP) — Kevin Garnett scored 24 points on 11 of 12 shooting and Ray Allen delivered the big blow with a 3-pointer with 1:38 left as the Boston Celtics rallied to beat the Miami Heat 92-85 on Sunday. Paul Pierce scored 15 points and Kendrick Perkins finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, which opened a four-game trip by winning its fourth straight. Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 11 assists for the Celtics, who wasted an 11-point third-quarter lead and were down by five with 9 minutes remaining.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points for Miami, which has lost six of nine and opens a trip Tuesday in Portland. Michael Beasley added 18 and Jermaine O'Neal finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat.

**Clippers 98, Grizzlies 88**  
At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 29 points as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat Memphis and

give coach Mike Dunleavy his 600th regular-season victory.

Al Thornton scored seven of his 18 points in the final 2:26 for the Clippers, who held the Grizzlies to just 2-for-18 shooting in the fourth quarter. Marcus Camby added 14 points and 14 rebounds for Los Angeles. Marc Gasol led Memphis with 26 points and was 13-for-18 from the field after starting the day tied with Portland's Greg Oden for the league's best field goal percentage at .633.

**Pistons 94, Hawks 88**

At Detroit, Ben Wallace had 18 rebounds, including 11 offensive boards, to help undermanned Detroit end a seven-game losing streak. Rodney Stuckey had 23 points and eight assists for the Pistons, who were again without starters Richard Hamilton (ankle), Tayshaun Prince (back) and Ben Gordon (ankle).

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 21 points, but the Hawks couldn't overcome Detroit's



30-10 advantage in second-chance points.

**Suns 113, Raptors 94**

At Toronto, Steve Nash had 20 points and 16 assists and Jason Richardson scored 22 points as Phoenix downed Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Amare Stoudemire had 18 points and Leandro Barbosa added 17 before leaving with a sore left ankle. Channing Frye scored 15 as Phoenix won its 12th straight over Toronto. The Suns have not

lost to the Raptors since a 101-94 defeat on Feb. 10, 2004.

Chris Bosh had 30 points and 17 rebounds for Toronto, which has lost three straight.

**Magic 114, Knicks 102**

At New York, Rashard Lewis scored 13 of his season-high 26 points in the third quarter as Orlando won its sixth straight on the

road. Dwight Howard had 24 points and 16 rebounds for the Eastern Conference leaders, who capped a perfect three-game trip over the holiday weekend that started with an impressive win at division rival Atlanta on Thanksgiving.

Reserve Nate Robinson scored 24 points for the Knicks, who lost their fifth straight.

## Colts

Continued from previous page

We don't get overexcited certainly when things aren't going the way we want them to," Manning said. "We don't panic, we don't yell, we don't throw helmets. We just try to put the series behind us and move on to the next one. There was a lot of that (Sunday)." Manning threw two first-half interceptions, but had a pair of second-half TD passes, including a 4-yarder to Dallas Clark that gave the Colts a 21-20 lead with about nine minutes left.

Clint Session stretched the lead to 28-20 when he returned an interception by Matt Schaub 26 yards for a touchdown seconds later.

"That's a good team over there, but we're the Colts," Session said. "We do things

the right way and we try to get every win we can get."

Schaub fumbled on Houston's next possession and Chad Simpson's touchdown run put the game out of reach.

"If you doubt, you're done," Reggie Wayne said. "It's just like showing a bad poker face. If they see that, you're in trouble. Guys just stick with it. We knew the defense was going to pick it up. We know we have to take care of the offense and get some drives going."

Houston, which has lost three straight, was all but unstoppable in the first half, and the Texans scored on their first four possessions. It was a different story after halftime, with the Texans unable to get anything going offensively until Schaub hit Jacoby Jones for a touchdown with 18 seconds remaining.

"This isn't the first time this has happened to us," Andre

Johnson said. "It's just real frustrating. I'm very upset with myself. It's kind of sounding like a broken record, we've just got to find a way to play for four quarters."

The Colts' first lead came on Manning's touchdown pass to Clark. In what was a theme Sunday, the drive was helped by a 17-yard pass interference penalty on Houston. Matt Stover's missed a 32-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter to keep Houston's lead at 20-14.

In the third quarter, the Texans were called for pass interference on third-and-goal from the 8-yard line, giving the Colts a first down at the 1. Wayne caught a touchdown pass three plays later to make it 20-14.

Houston's Jacques Reeves got a 43-yard pass interference penalty on the third play of that drive.

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**Woods cancel***Continued from page 10*

"This situation is my fault, and it's obviously embarrassing to my family and me," Woods said on his Web site. "I'm human and I'm not perfect. I will certainly make sure this doesn't happen again."

The statement was posted around 2 p.m. Sunday, about an hour after Woods' attorney told the Florida Highway Patrol that for the third straight day golf's No. 1 player would be unavailable to talk to troopers.

This time, the meeting was not rescheduled.

Even so, Sgt. Kim Montes of FHP said troopers went to Woods' \$2.4 million estate anyway, only for attorney Mark NeJame to turn them away. The attorney gave troopers Woods' driver's license, registration and insurance as required by law for such accidents.

Woods said the crash was a private matter, and he intended to keep it that way.

"Although I understand there is curiosity, the many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me are irresponsible," he said. "The only person responsible for the accident is me. My wife, Elin, acted courageously when she saw I was hurt and in trouble. She was the first person to help me. Any other assertion is absolutely false."

Woods is scheduled to compete at his Chevron World Challenge, which starts Thursday in Thousand Oaks, Calif., although his tournament director did not know Woods' status for the tournament — whether he would play or even attend.

Even with his first public

comments on the 2:25 a.m. Friday accident, Woods left several questions.

— Where he was going at that time of the night?

— How did he lose control of his SUV at such a speed that the air bags didn't deploy?

— Why were both rear windows of the Cadillac Escalade smashed?

— If it was a careless mistake, why not speak to state troopers trying to wrap the investigation?

"We have been informed by the Florida Highway Patrol that further discussion with them is both voluntary and optional," Mark Steinberg, his agent at IMG, said in an e-mail. "Although Tiger realizes that there is a great deal of public curiosity, it has been conveyed to FHP that he simply has nothing more to add and wishes to protect the privacy of his family."

Woods' wife turned troopers away from their home in the exclusive gated community outside Orlando on Friday, the day of the accident, because she said he was sleeping. Steinberg called troopers en route to Woods' house on Saturday and postponed the meeting until Sunday.

"We're just continuing our traffic crash investigation," Montes said. "If we have somebody who we feel is pertinent to the investigation, then we will interview them."

She said the 911 caller was interviewed Saturday, and investigators might speak with other people who were at the scene as well.

The FHP released the 911 call from an unidentified neighbor on Sunday.

"I have a neighbor, he hit the tree. And we came out here just to see what was going on. I see him and he's laying down," the neighbor told dispatchers without ever



**Rachel Uchitel arrives from New York at the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, Calif., on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. The National Enquirer published a story alleging that golfer Tiger Woods, who was involved in a car accident near his home on Friday, had been seeing the New York night club hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters. Uchitel denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by the Associated Press. Gloria Allred, left, met her at the airport.**

**Associated Press**

identifying the victim as Woods. Asked if the victim was unconscious, the neighbor replied, "Yes."

Part of the call were inaudible because of a bad connection. At one point, the voice of a woman is heard yelling, "What happened!" "We're just trying to get the police here right now," the neighbor says to the woman. "We don't know what happened. We're figuring that out right now. I'm on the phone with the police right now."

According to the FHP accident report, Woods had just pulled out of his driveway when he struck a fire hydrant and then a tree. Woods said he had cuts, bruising and "right now I'm a little sore." Montes said the Woods' car was towed for "safekeeping," and authorities have already documented where the damage

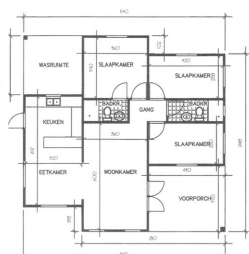
is on the vehicle and the point of impact.

The accident came two days after the National Enquirer published a story alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York night club hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters.

The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press.

Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred confirmed she was representing Uchitel when she was reached by the AP on Sunday.

"She is with me in L.A.," Allred said later in an e-mail to the AP. "We plan to meet and then we'll decide on the next step, which we do not plan to announce to the press."

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# Chávez amenaza con nacionalización a bancos privados que no respeten normas

CARACAS (AFP) - El presidente de Venezuela Hugo Chávez lanzó una advertencia este domingo a los banqueros privados, subrayando que podría optar por nacionalizar aquellas instituciones financieras que siguen haciendo “negocios con la plata del pueblo” en lugar de dar créditos a los pobres. “A todos los banqueros privados de este país: el que se resbale pierde. Le voy a quitar el banco del tamaño que sea, no me importa nada”, declaró el mandatario en su programa dominical “Aló Presidente”.

“¿Quieren que nacionalice la banca? Bueno, no tengo problema, porque los banqueros no quieren dar crédito a los pobres, no cumplen con la función de un banco (...) Ellos acumulan plata de

la gente (...) y esa plata la usan para ganar más plata”, insistió Chávez. El presidente se refirió también a la orden emitida el viernes por la justicia para prohibir la salida del país a 16 directivos de tres bancos que fueron recientemente intervenidos por el Estado. “Un juez dictó una orden de salida del país, pero a mí me gustaría que los agarraran porque se van, tienen avionetas, aeropuertos privados”, recalcó.

En estos días han abundado las noticias en Venezuela sobre estos bancos intervenidos ya que uno de sus dueños, actualmente en prisión, sería un hombre cercano al gobierno.

Chávez insistió este domingo que no hay que tener reparos en enviar a prisión a quien lo merezca.

“Yo pedí a la Fiscal (general) como jefe de Estado que soy (...) que haya prisión sobre cualquiera (...) Le dije que vaya a prisión todo el que tenga que ir”, subrayó.

“Ellos hacían lo que les daba la gana cuando tenían un presidente

subordinado a ellos. Yo no me subordinaré a ellos ni a los ricachones”, zanjó.

El Estado venezolano intervino la semana pasada los bancos Provivienda (Banpro), Confederado, Canarias y Bolívar Banco por no cumplir con las normas exigidas a las instituciones financieras y tras registrarse irregularidades sobre el origen de sus

fondos.

Más del 70% del sistema bancario venezolano está en manos privadas. Tras la nacionalización en 2009 del Banco de Venezuela, que es el tercero del país y estaba en manos del grupo español Santander, el Estado controla más del 25% del sector y es el actor más poderoso del sistema financiero.



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